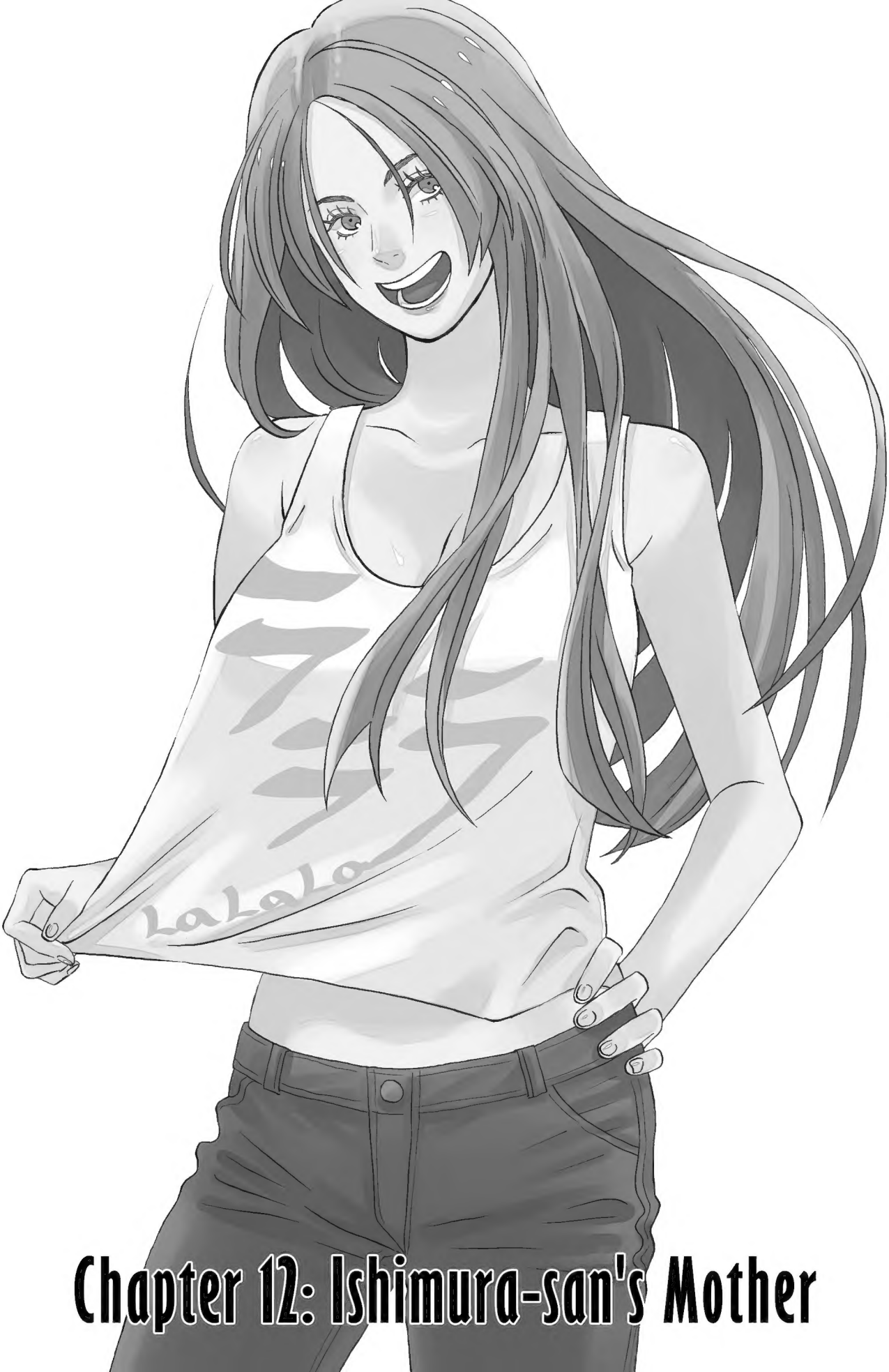


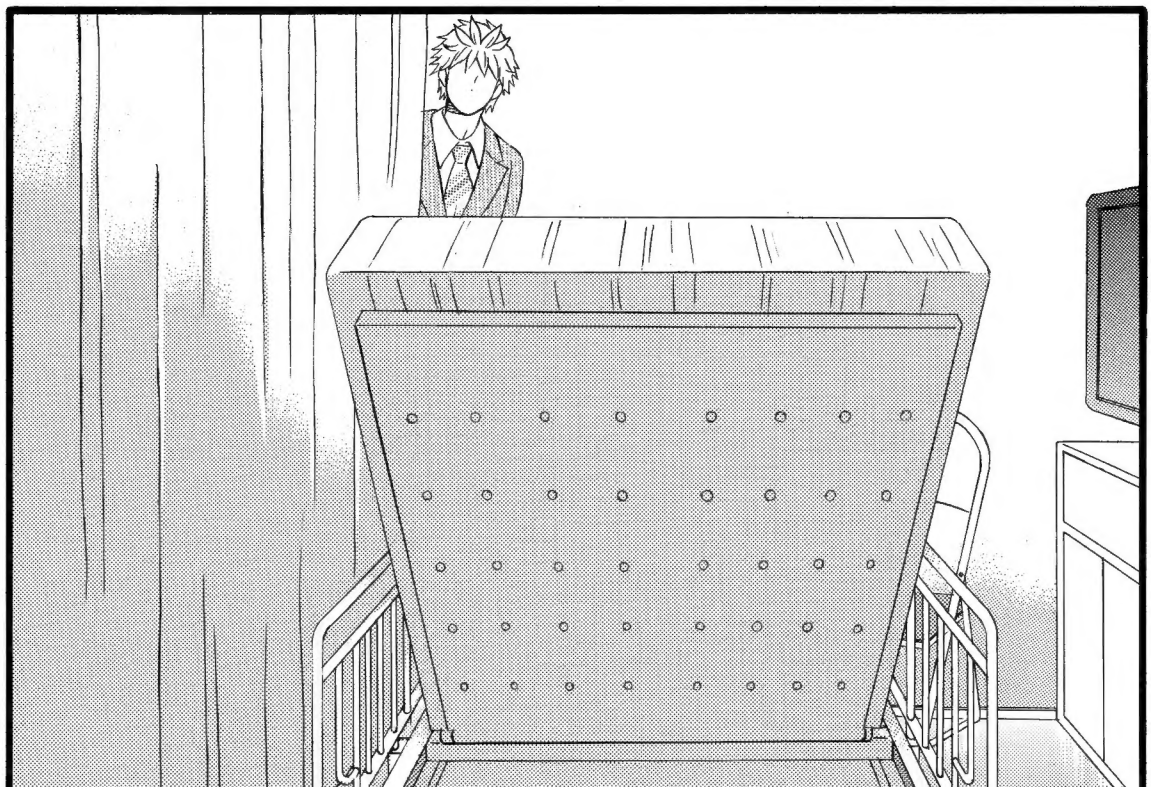
Chapter 12: Ishimura-san's Mother

IT IS NICE TO MEET YOU. I AM KIRISHIMA SHIROU!
I AM TERRIBLY SORRY FOR TAKING UNTIL TODAY TO MEET YOU...
BUT I MARRIED AI-SAN ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO!
No reaction?
Bdmp...
Bdmp
Bdmp

I WAS TOO ENTHUSI-ASTIC...
MAYBE SHE'S SLEEPING?

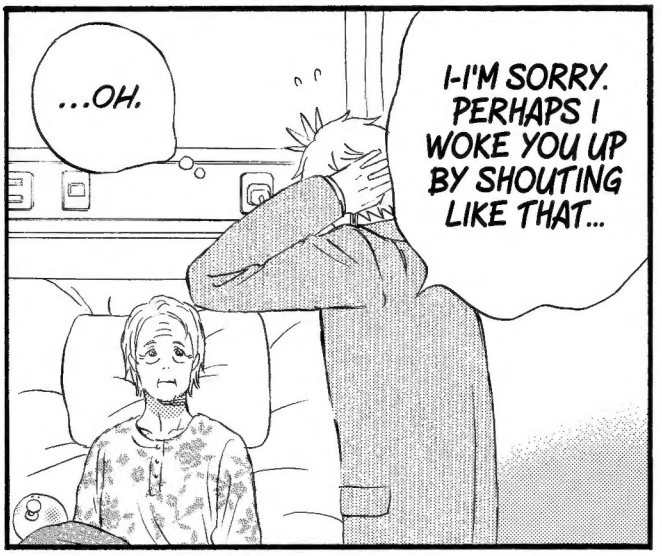
EEK!
OH! I'M VERY SORRY!
...UM, THIS IS A HOSPITAL. PLEASE SPEAK MORE QUIETLY.

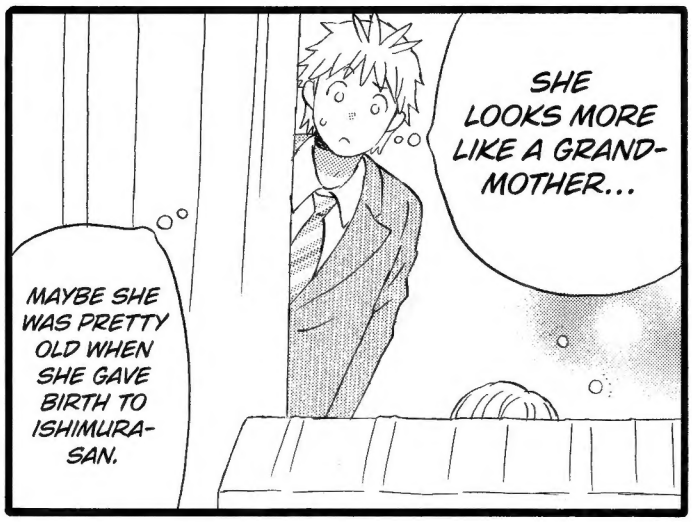
SLIP...
EXCUSE ME...



She's awake.
Oh, boy.

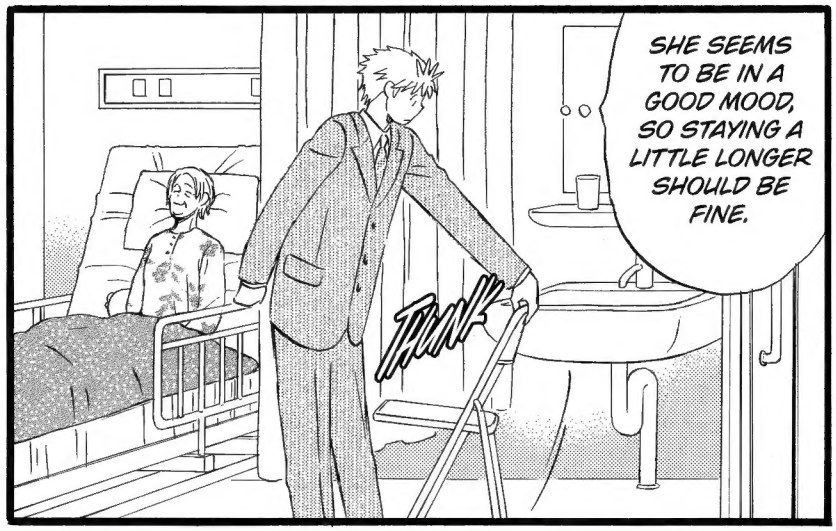
...IS THIS PERSON REALLY ISHIMURA-SAN'S MOTHER?
I FORGOT THAT SHE CAN'T TALK...


...OH.
I-I'M SORRY. PERHAPS I WOKE YOU UP BY SHOUTING LIKE THAT...


SHE LOOKS MORE LIKE A GRAND-MOTHER...
MAYBE SHE WAS PRETTY OLD WHEN SHE GAVE BIRTH TO ISHIMURA-SAN.

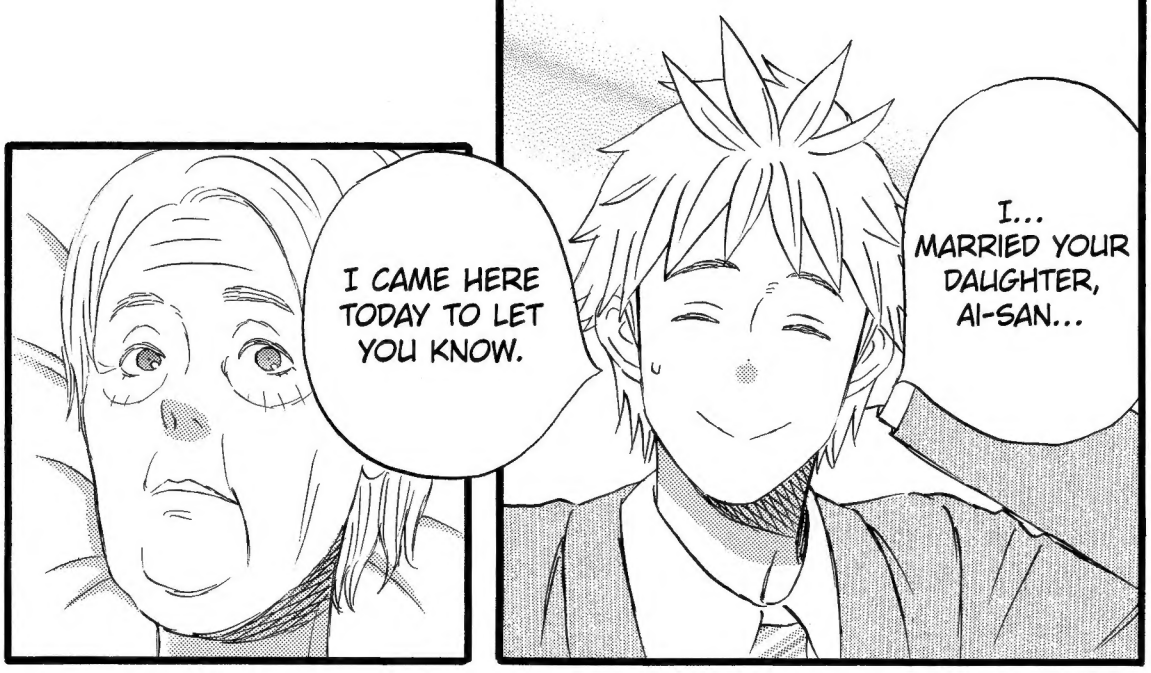
MUMBLE

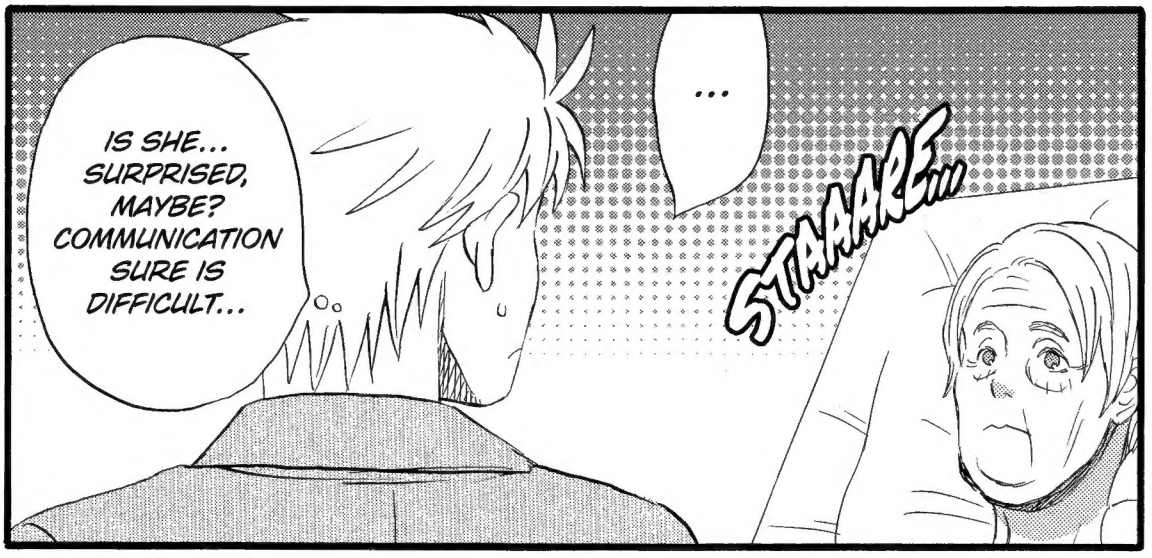
Pheew...

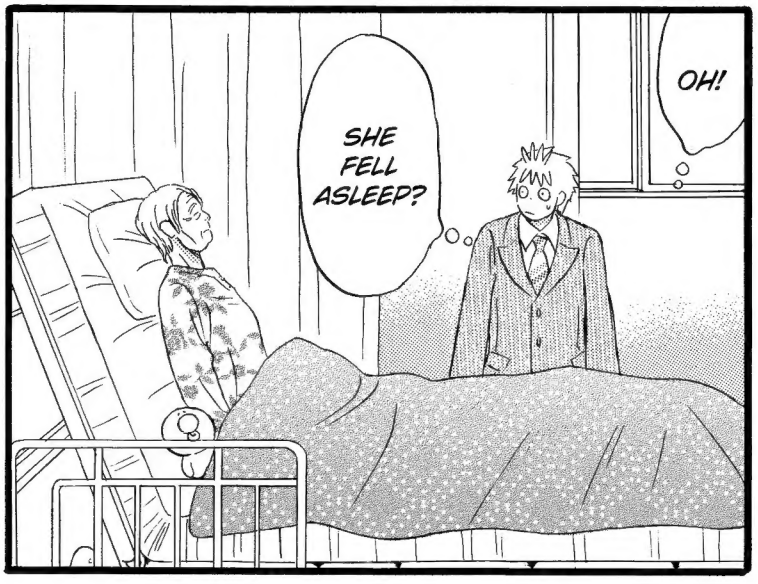

SHE SEEMS TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD, SO STAYING A LITTLE LONGER SHOULD BE FINE.
THUNK

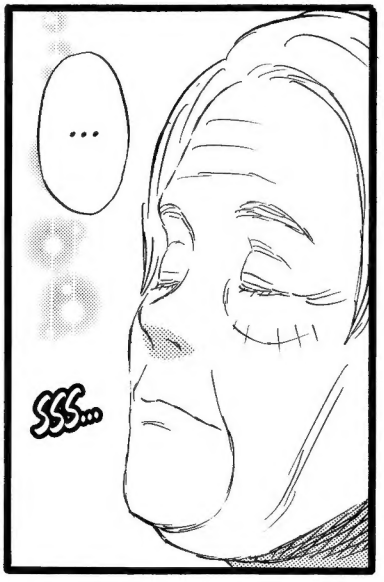
ANYWAY, I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF AGAIN...
UM, AS I SAID BEFORE...
MY NAME IS KIRISHIMA SHIROU.

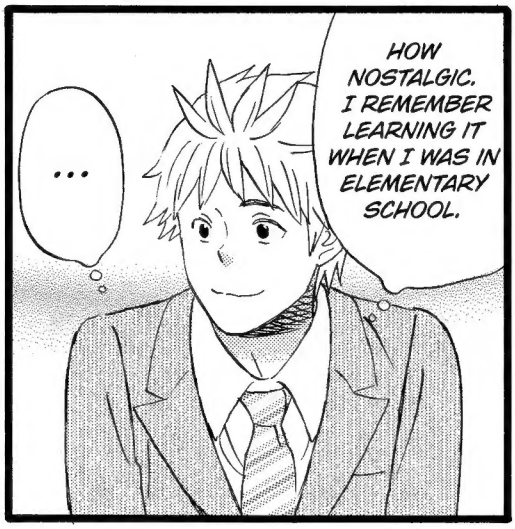
OH.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT A GET WELL SOON GIFT.
CRAP. I MESSED UP ALREADY!

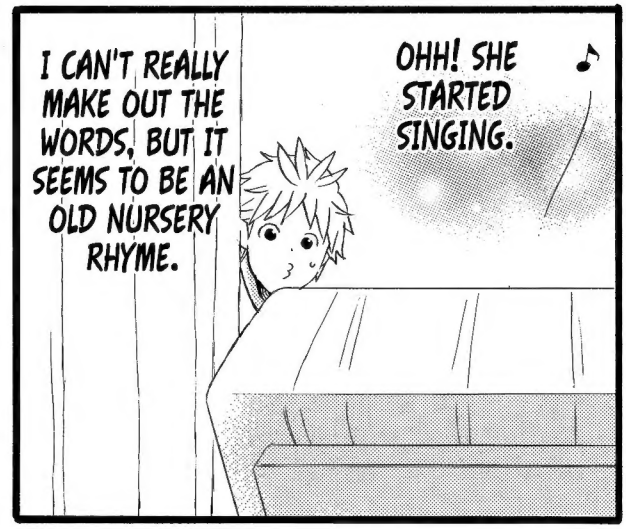

I CAME HERE TODAY TO LET YOU KNOW.
I... MARRIED YOUR DAUGHTER, AI-SAN...

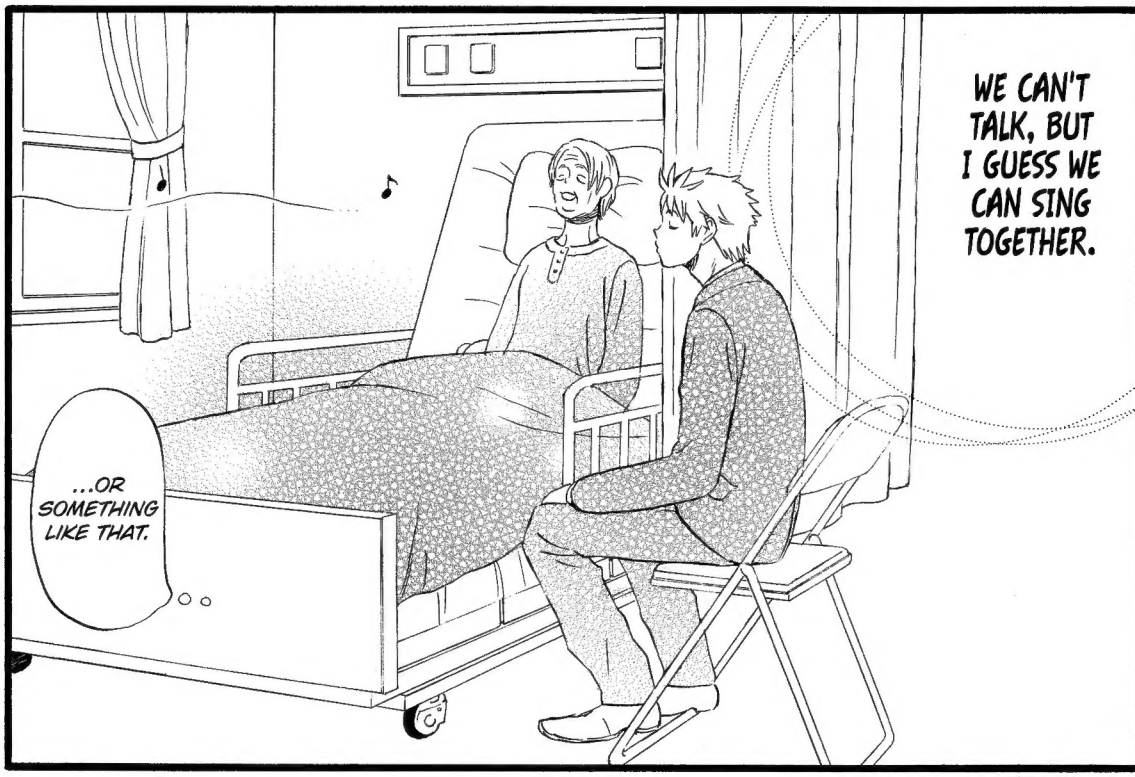

IS SHE... SURPRISED, MAYBE? COMMUNICATION SURE IS DIFFICULT...
...
STARRRE...

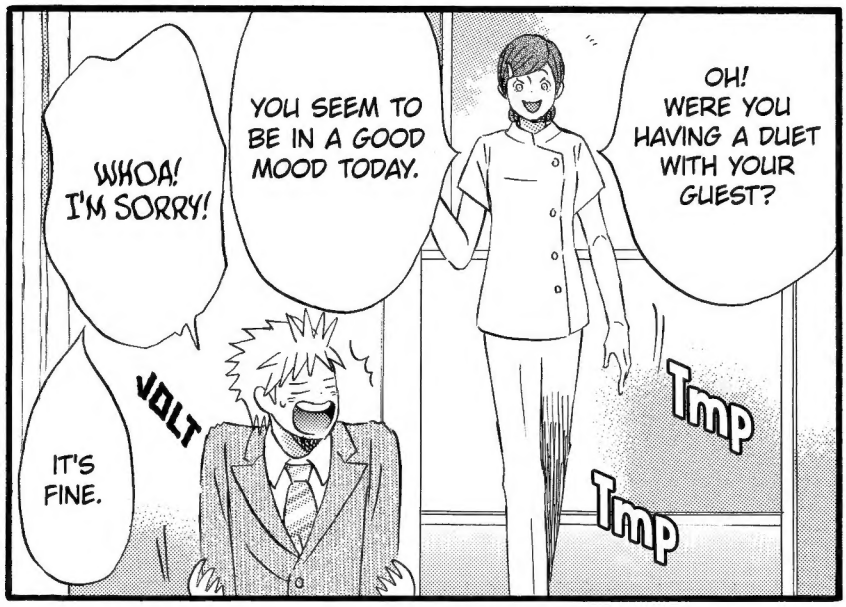

SHE FELL ASLEEP?
OH!


...
SSS...

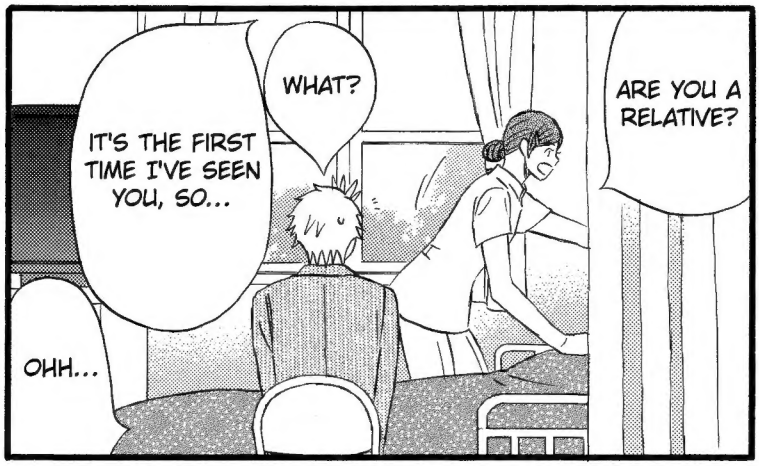

...
HOW NOSTALGIC. I REMEMBER LEARNING IT WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.


OHH! SHE STARTED SINGING.
I CAN'T REALLY MAKE OUT THE WORDS, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE AN OLD NURSERY RHYME.


WE CAN'T TALK, BUT I GUESS WE CAN SING TOGETHER.
...OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

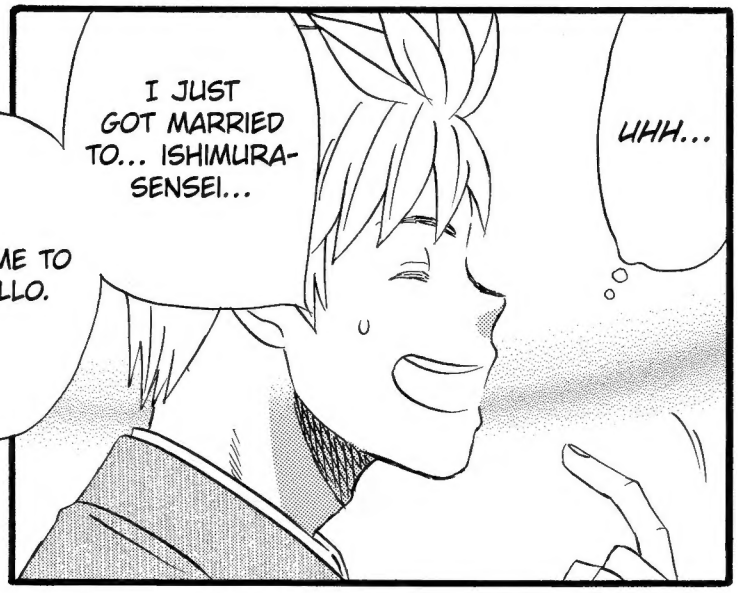

WHOA! I'M SORRY!
YOU SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY.
OH! WERE YOU HAVING A DUET WITH YOUR GUEST?
JOLT
IT'S FINE.
Tmp
Tmp

knock
knock
EXCUSE ME, ISHIMURA-SAN.


WHAT?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU, SO...
ARE YOU A RELATIVE?
OHH...

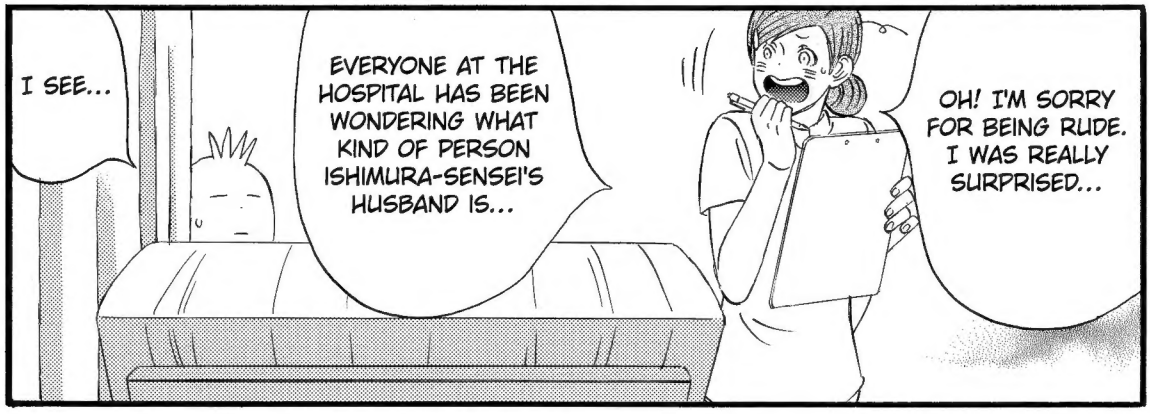
A cute nurse...
...

カチャ
Clatter

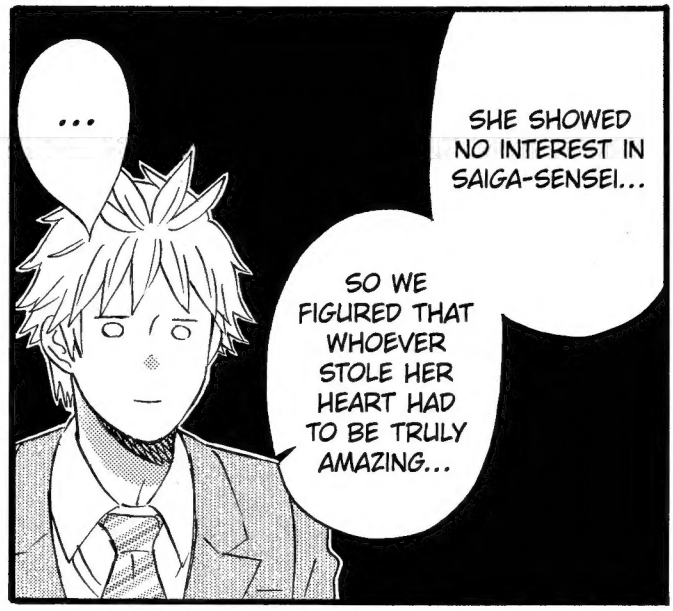

I JUST GOT MARRIED TO... ISHIMURA-SENSEI...
SO I CAME TO SAY HELLO.
UHH...

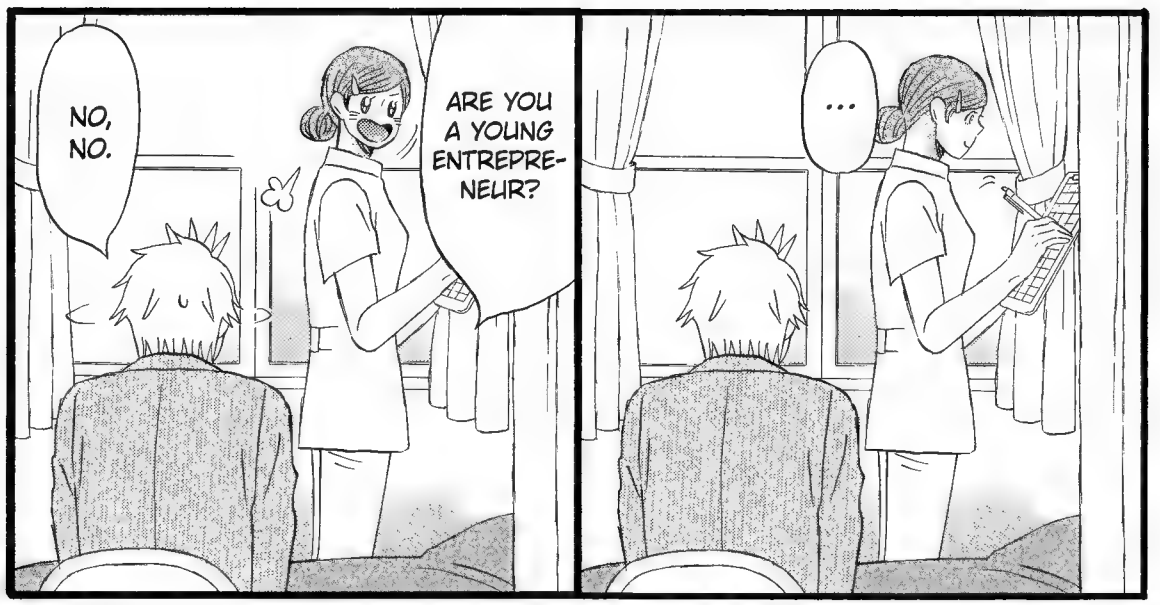
HM? WELL, YES. I AM YOUNGER, BUT...
YOU'RE SO YOUNG!

WELL, YES... I GUESS I DID...
Huh?!
YOU MARRIED HER?!

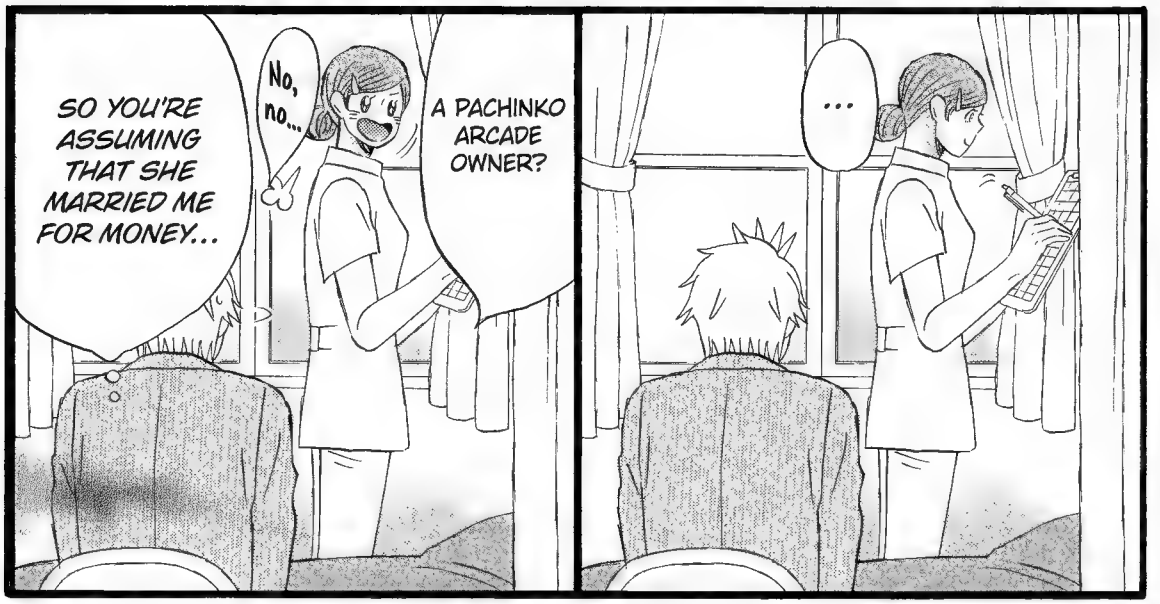

I SEE...
EVERYONE AT THE HOSPITAL HAS BEEN WONDERING WHAT KIND OF PERSON ISHIMURA-SENSEI'S HUSBAND IS...
OH! I'M SORRY FOR BEING RUDE. I WAS REALLY SURPRISED...

IT CERTAINLY FEELS LIKE I DO, THOUGH...
AH! PLEASE DON'T GET ME WRONG. IT'S NOT THAT YOU FALL SHORT OF MY EXPECTATIONS...
heh...

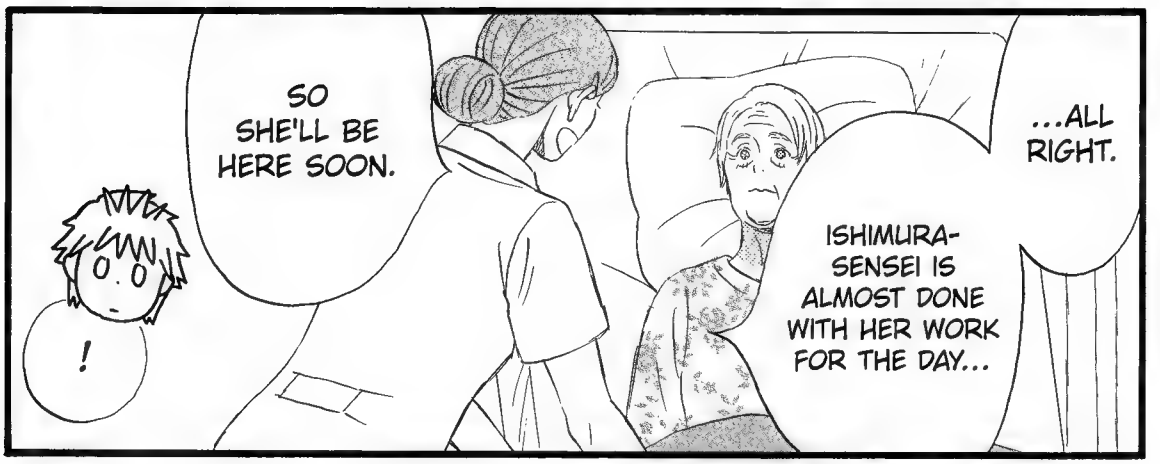

...
SHE SHOWED NO INTEREST IN SAIGA-SENSEI...
SO WE FIGURED THAT WHOEVER STOLE HER HEART HAD TO BE TRULY AMAZING...


NO, NO.
ARE YOU A YOUNG ENTREPRE-NEUR?

...


SO YOU'RE ASSUMING THAT SHE MARRIED ME FOR MONEY...
No, no...
A PACHINKO ARCADE OWNER?

...

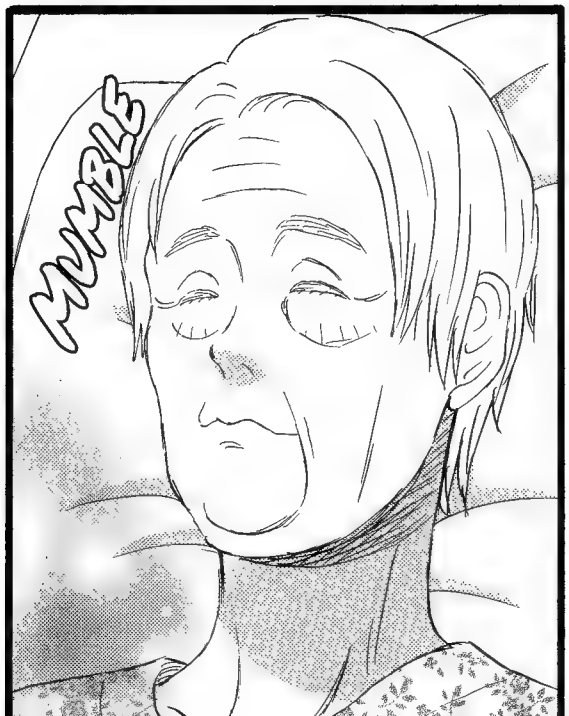

SO SHE'LL BE HERE SOON.
!
...ALL RIGHT.
ISHIMURA-SENSEI IS ALMOST DONE WITH HER WORK FOR THE DAY...

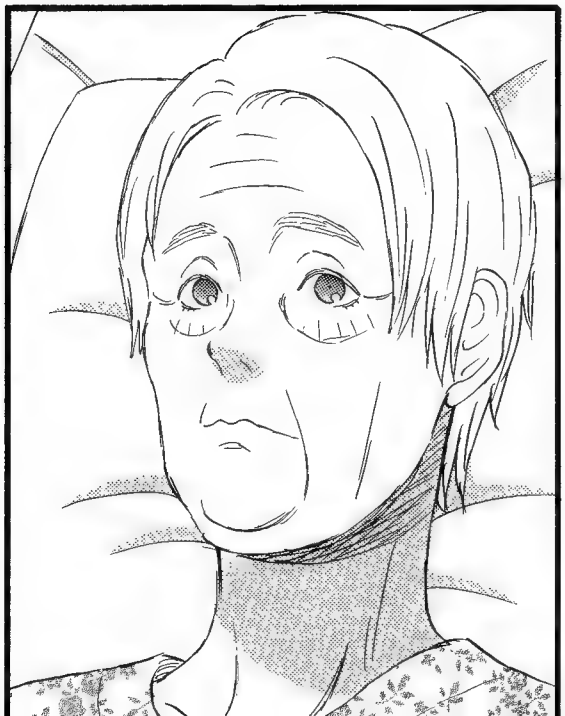
WE COULDN'T HAVE A REGULAR TALK, SO I'M NOT SURE IF SHE UNDERSTOOD ME WELL.
BUT AT LEAST TELLING HER ABOUT THE MARRIAGE IS DONE.
Clatter

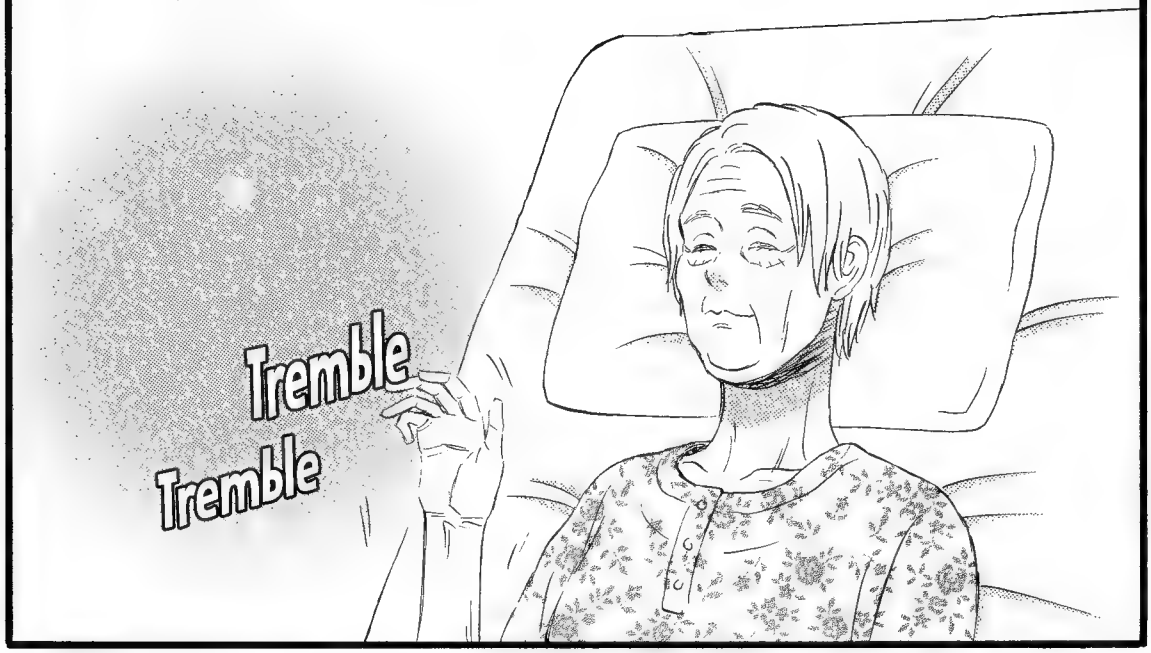
I DON'T WANT TO DISTURB HER WHILE SHE'S AT WORK...
I SHOULD GO HOME.

I'LL COME VISIT AGAIN, OKAY?

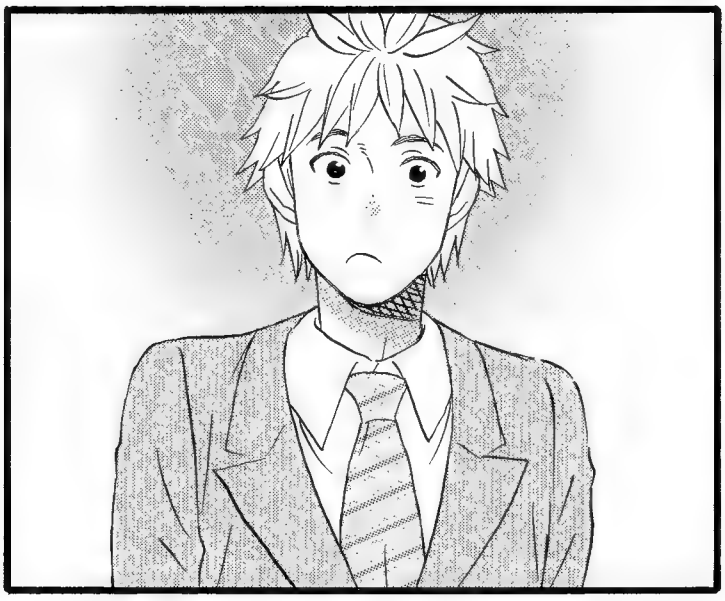
UM...
I SHOULD GET GOING, TOO.

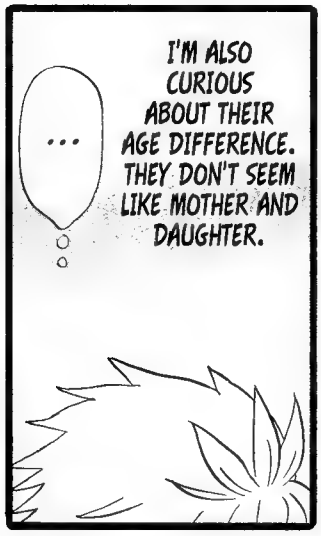

MUMBLE




Tremble
Tremble

WAVE
WAVE




...
I'M ALSO CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR AGE DIFFERENCE. THEY DON'T SEEM LIKE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER.

I WONDER IF ISHIMURA-SAN'S MOTHER'S PARALYSIS IS RELATED TO THE "COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES" CLAIM?
I CAN'T TELL FOR SURE WITHOUT TALKING WITH HER, BUT...
THE LOOK ON HER FACE TELLS ME THAT SHE'S PROBABLY A GOOD PERSON...

I WON'T SKIRT AROUND THE DETAILS ANYMORE.

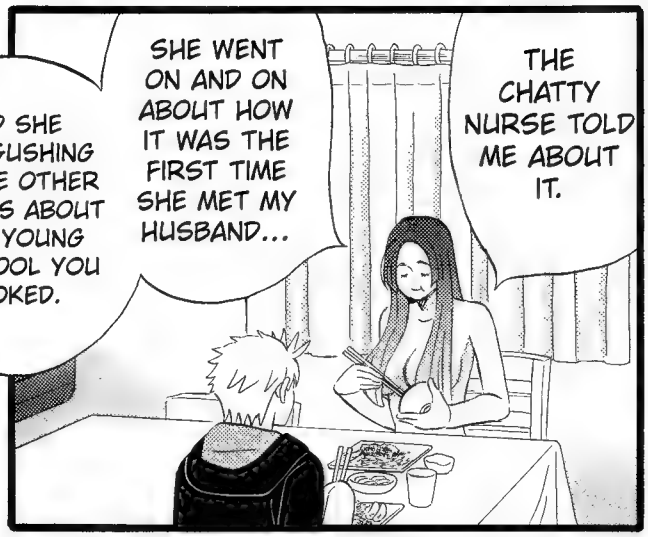
I'LL ASK HER ABOUT IT.

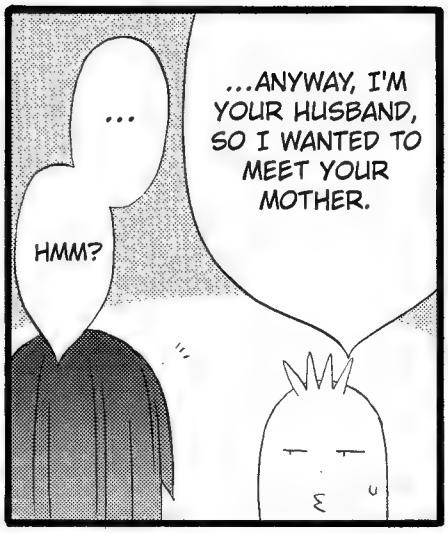
I WANT TO KNOW.

AS HER HUSBAND, I WANT TO KNOW MY WIFE WELL.

I HEARD THAT YOU VISITED MY MOTHER TODAY.

COULD IT BE THAT I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY POPULAR...?!
HUH?! REALLY?!!

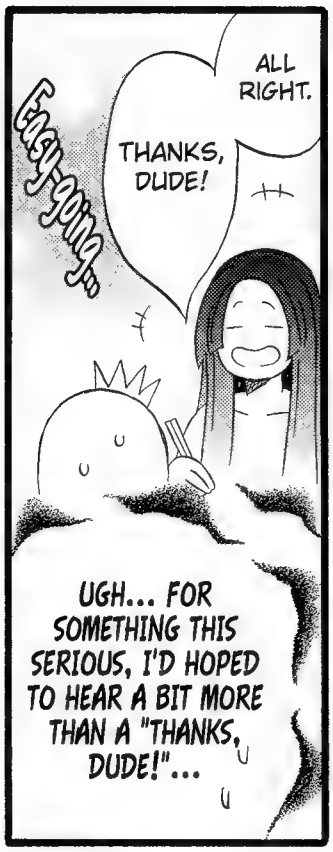

AND SHE WAS GUSHING TO THE OTHER NURSES ABOUT HOW YOUNG AND COOL YOU LOOKED.
SHE WENT ON AND ON ABOUT HOW IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE MET MY HUSBAND...
THE CHATTY NURSE TOLD ME ABOUT IT.

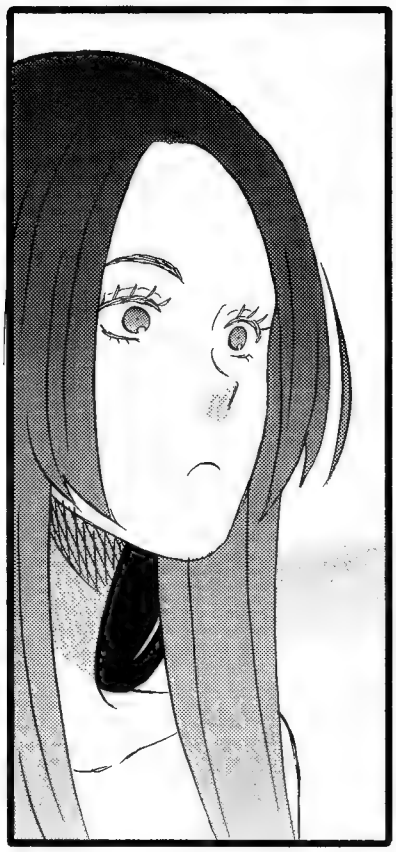

...ANYWAY, I'M YOUR HUSBAND, SO I WANTED TO MEET YOUR MOTHER.
...
HMM?

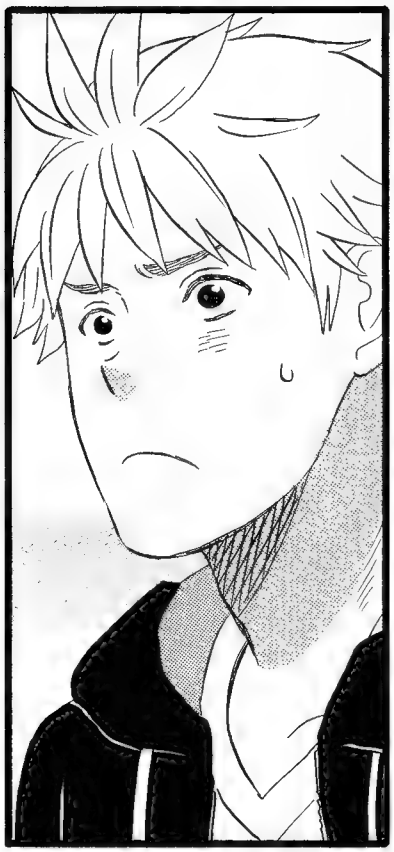
OF COURSE THEY DID!!
THEY IMMEDIATELY WENT SILENT WHEN I TOLD THEM WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING, THOUGH.
I knew it was too good to be true!

Hmph!
I DECIDED...
I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST AT MY CURRENT JOB!
Ha ha ha!
WHAT'S THIS? WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
AND THAT'S WHY!
AS A HOUSEHUSBAND AND AS YOUR HUSBAND, I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!
WHAT? BY "JOB", YOU MEAN...
?
OKAY ...?

I'LL GO WITH YOU!
UM... ABOUT THE CLAIM AGAINST THE HOSPITAL,

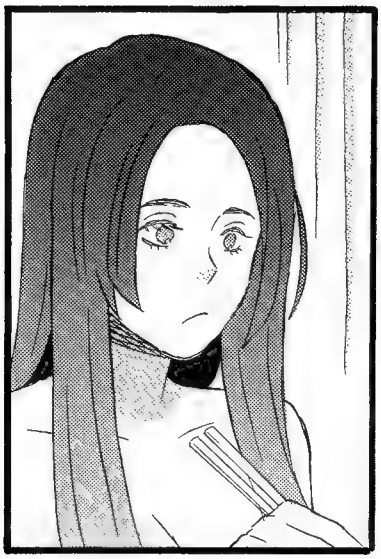

ALL RIGHT.
THANKS, DUDE!
Easy-going...
UGH... FOR SOMETHING THIS SERIOUS, I'D HOPED TO HEAR A BIT MORE THAN A "THANKS, DUDE!"...

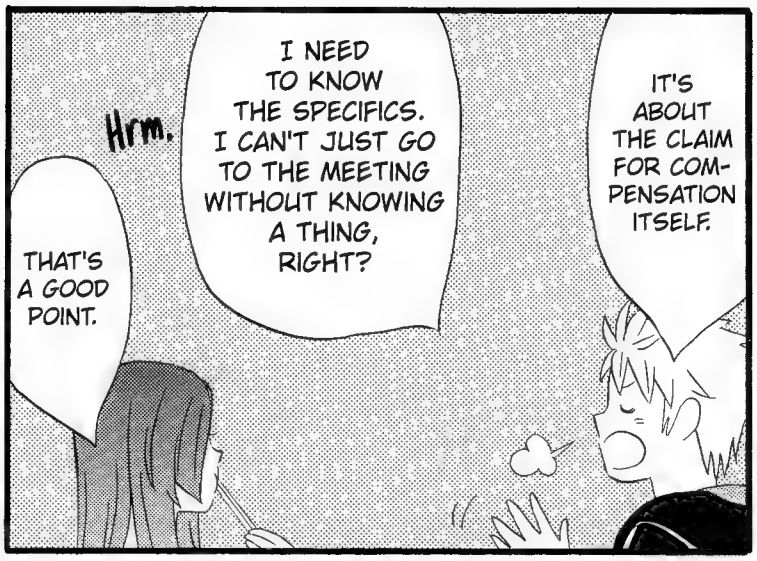


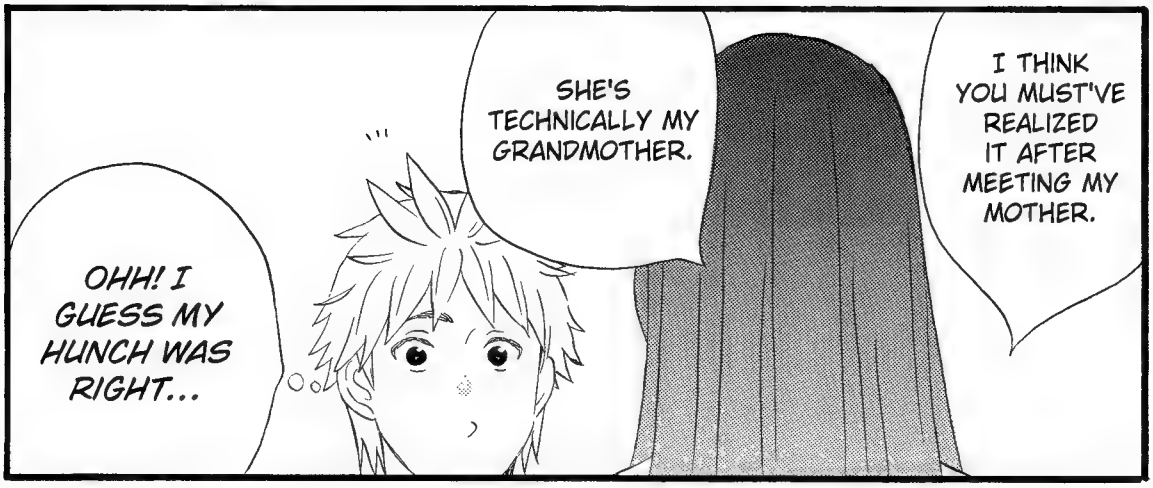


SO I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TÊTE-À-TÊTE WITH THE HOSPITAL...
ASK AWAY.

...THAT'S NOT IT. I'M NOT WORKING HARD BECAUSE I WANT SOMETHING IN RETURN FROM ISHIMURA-SAN.
JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, I WANT TO DO MY BEST AT WORK!

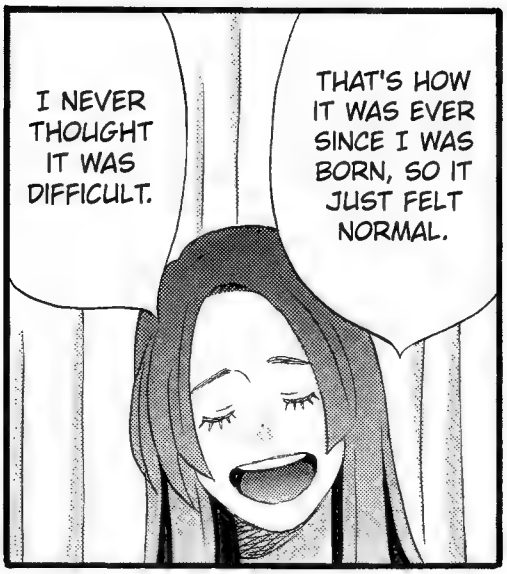


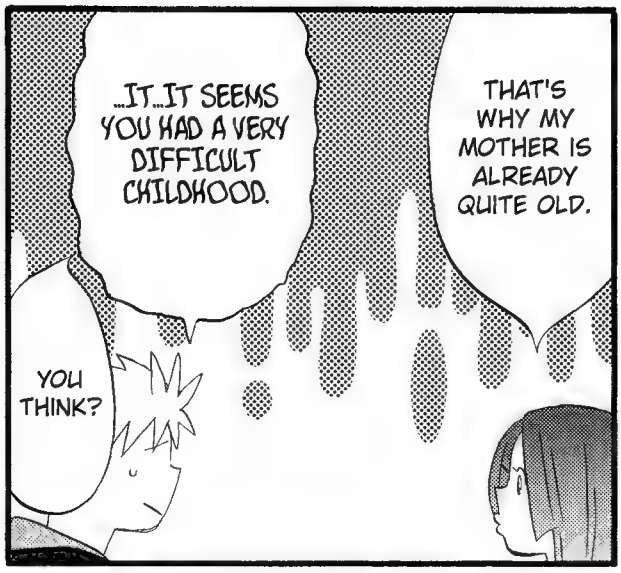

IT'S ABOUT THE CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ITSELF.
I NEED TO KNOW THE SPECIFICS. I CAN'T JUST GO TO THE MEETING WITHOUT KNOWING A THING, RIGHT?
Hrm.
THAT'S A GOOD POINT.

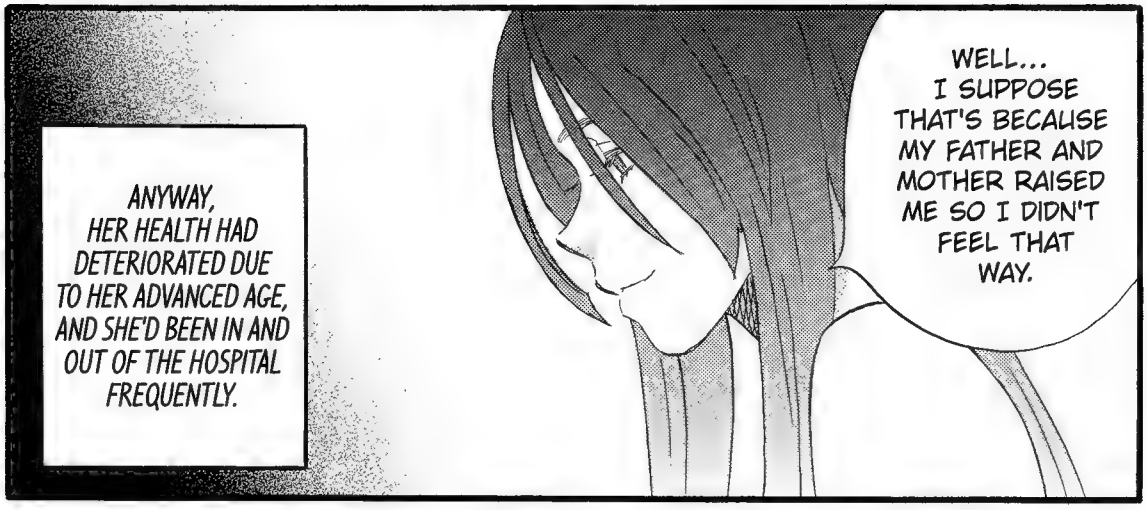

I THINK YOU MUST'VE REALIZED IT AFTER MEETING MY MOTHER.
SHE'S TECHNICALLY MY GRANDMOTHER.
OHH! I GUESS MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT...

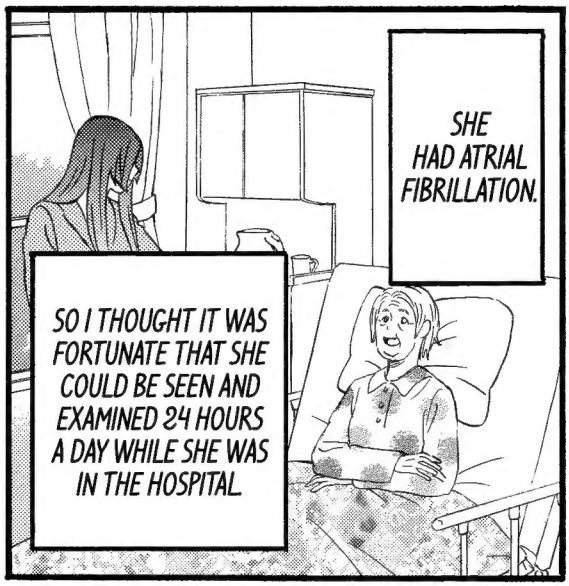
AND THEN MY GRANDFATHER AND GRANDMOTHER TOOK ME IN AND RAISED ME AS MY SURROGATE PARENTS.

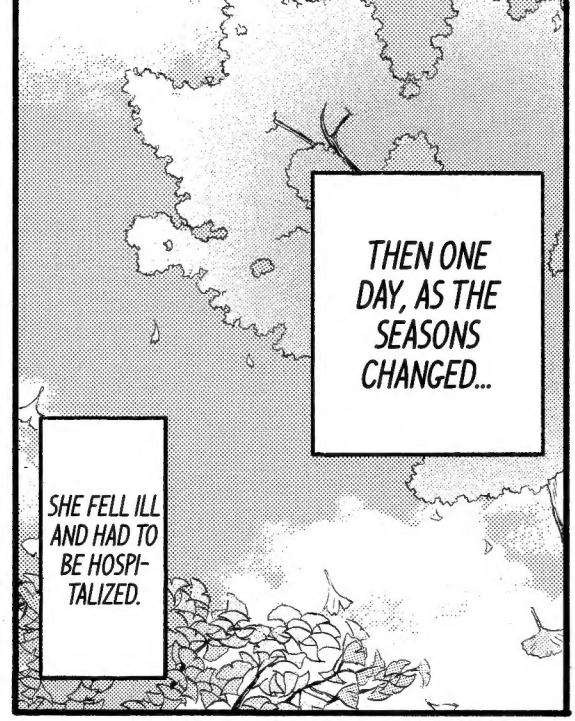
IT TURNS OUT THAT I WAS THE PRODUCT OF AN AFFAIR THAT MY REAL MOTHER HAD WITH ANOTHER MAN.
AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO ME, SHE RAN AWAY WITH HIM.

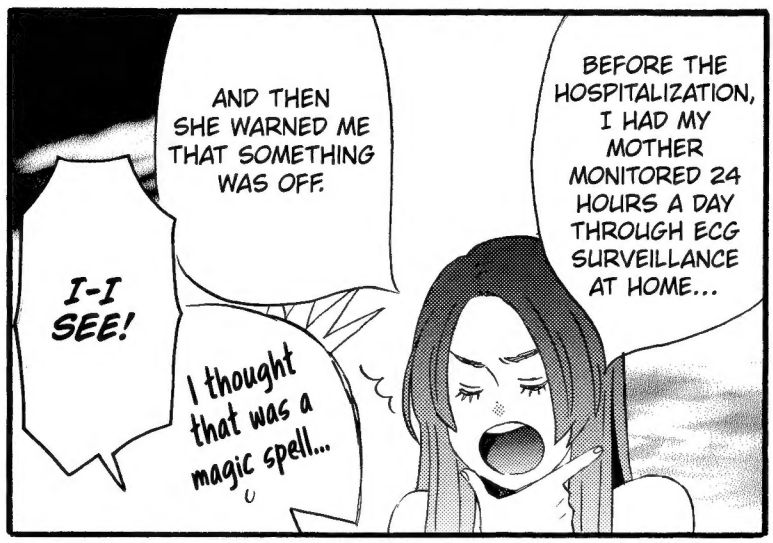

I NEVER THOUGHT IT WAS DIFFICULT.
THAT'S HOW IT WAS EVER SINCE I WAS BORN, SO IT JUST FELT NORMAL.

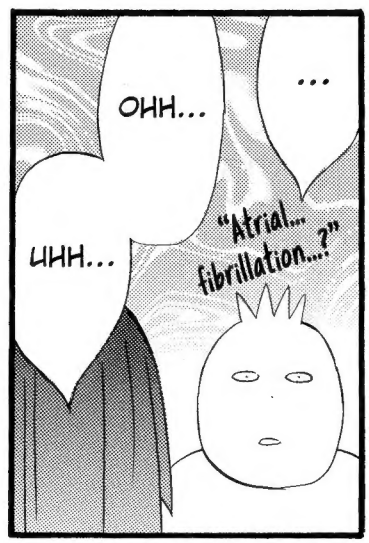

...IT...IT SEEMS YOU HAD A VERY DIFFICULT CHILDHOOD.
THAT'S WHY MY MOTHER IS ALREADY QUITE OLD.
YOU THINK?


ANYWAY, HER HEALTH HAD DETERIORATED DUE TO HER ADVANCED AGE, AND SHE'D BEEN IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL FREQUENTLY.
WELL... I SUPPOSE THAT'S BECAUSE MY FATHER AND MOTHER RAISED ME SO I DIDN'T FEEL THAT WAY.

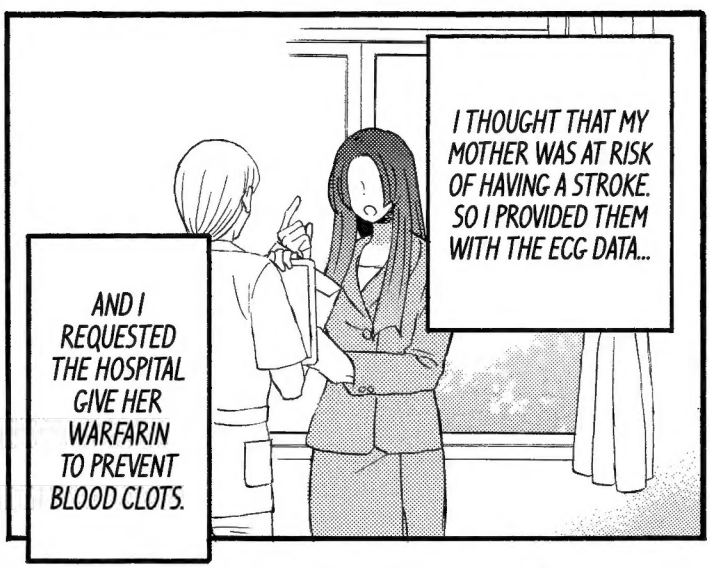

SHE HAD ATRIAL FIBRILLATION.
SO I THOUGHT IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT SHE COULD BE SEEN AND EXAMINED 24 HOURS A DAY WHILE SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

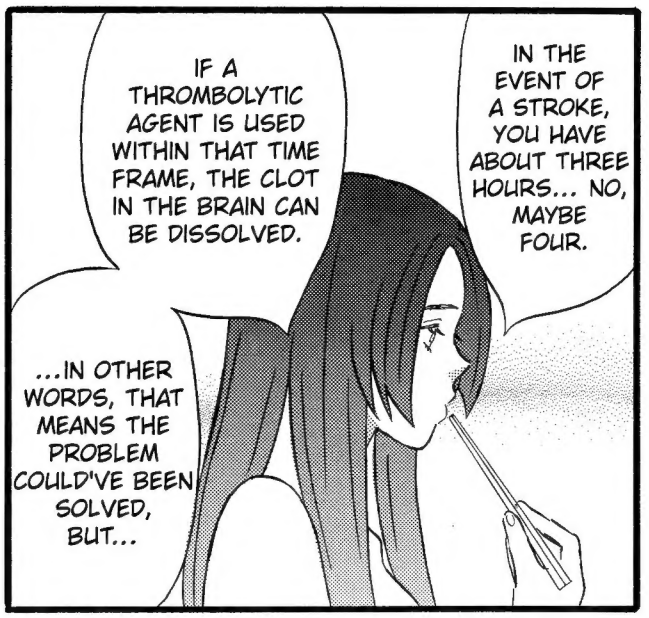

THEN ONE DAY, AS THE SEASONS CHANGED...
SHE FELL ILL AND HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED.


AND THEN SHE WARNED ME THAT SOMETHING WAS OFF.
BEFORE THE HOSPITALIZATION, I HAD MY MOTHER MONITORED 24 HOURS A DAY THROUGH ECG SURVEILLANCE AT HOME...
I-I SEE!
I thought that was a magic spell...

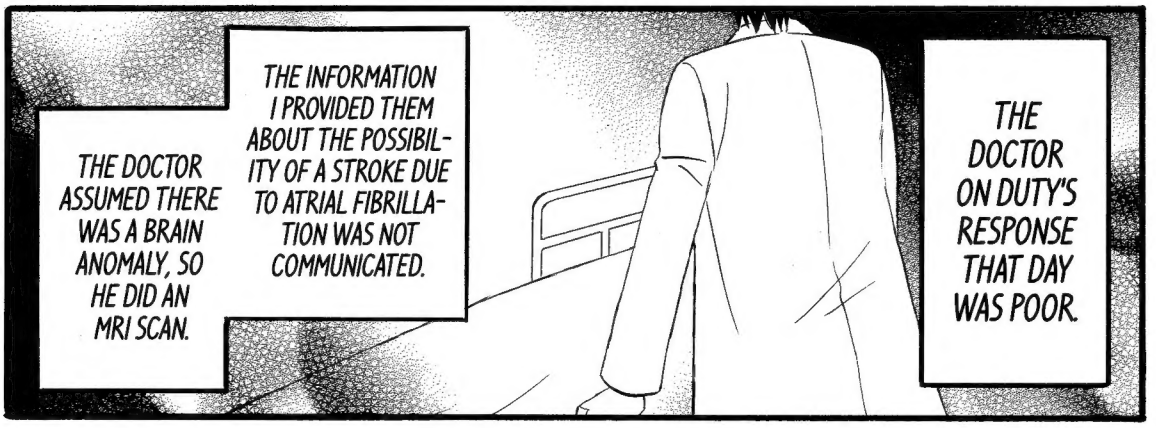

...
OHH...
UHH...
"Atrial... fibrillation...?"

HOWEVER, THERE MUST'VE BEEN A FAILURE IN COMMUNICATION.
MY MOTHER DIDN'T TAKE THE WARFARIN AND THE NEXT MORNING SHE HAD A STROKE.

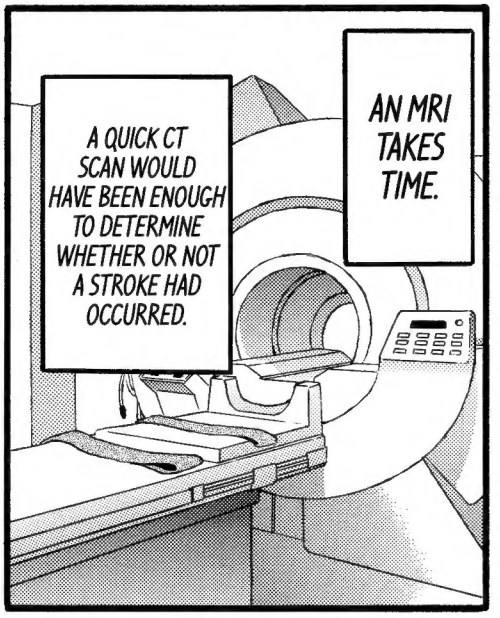

I THOUGHT THAT MY MOTHER WAS AT RISK OF HAVING A STROKE. SO I PROVIDED THEM WITH THE ECG DATA...
AND I REQUESTED THE HOSPITAL GIVE HER WARFARIN TO PREVENT BLOOD CLOTS.

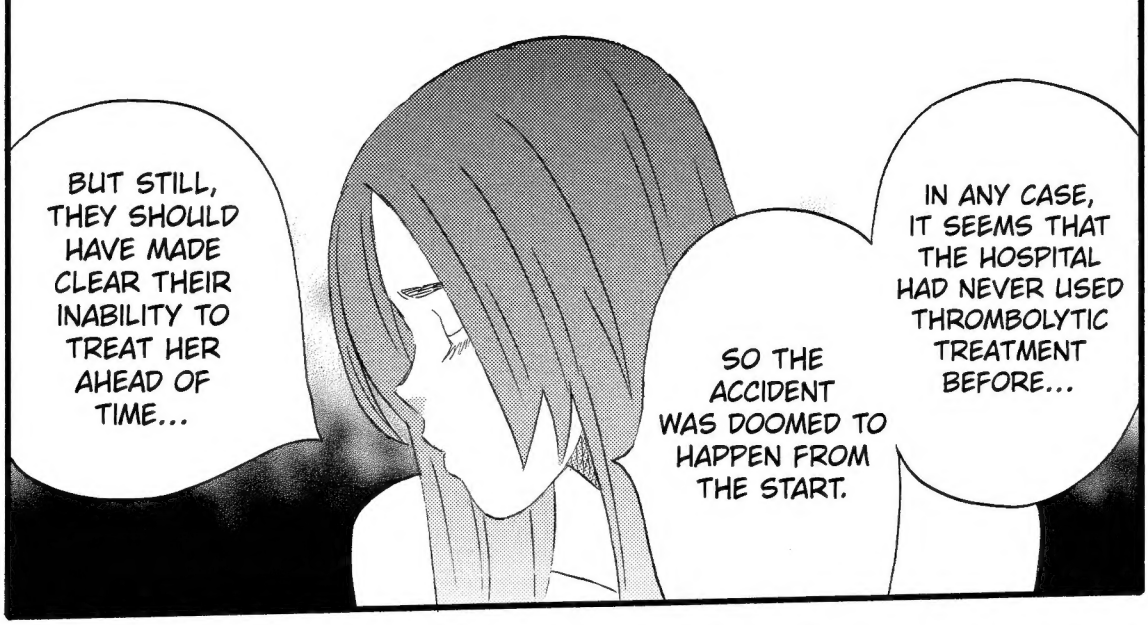

IN THE EVENT OF A STROKE, YOU HAVE ABOUT THREE HOURS... NO, MAYBE FOUR.
IF A THROMBOLYTIC AGENT IS USED WITHIN THAT TIME FRAME, THE CLOT IN THE BRAIN CAN BE DISSOLVED.
...IN OTHER WORDS, THAT MEANS THE PROBLEM COULD'VE BEEN SOLVED, BUT...

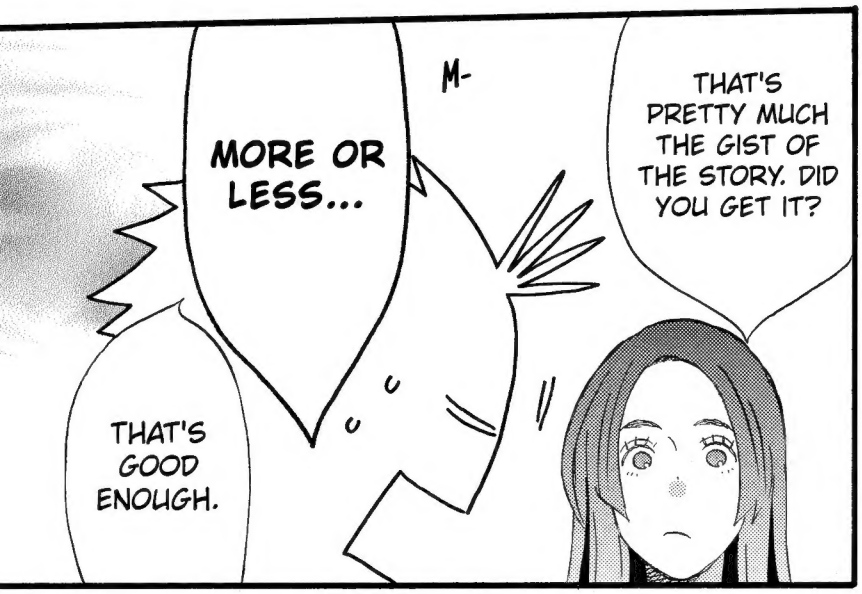
DOCTORS MAKE THEIR ROUNDS EVERY TWO HOURS.
SO BY THE TIME I WAS CONTACTED AT HOME, MY MOTHER COULD HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FROM A STROKE FOR UP TO TWO HOURS AT MOST.

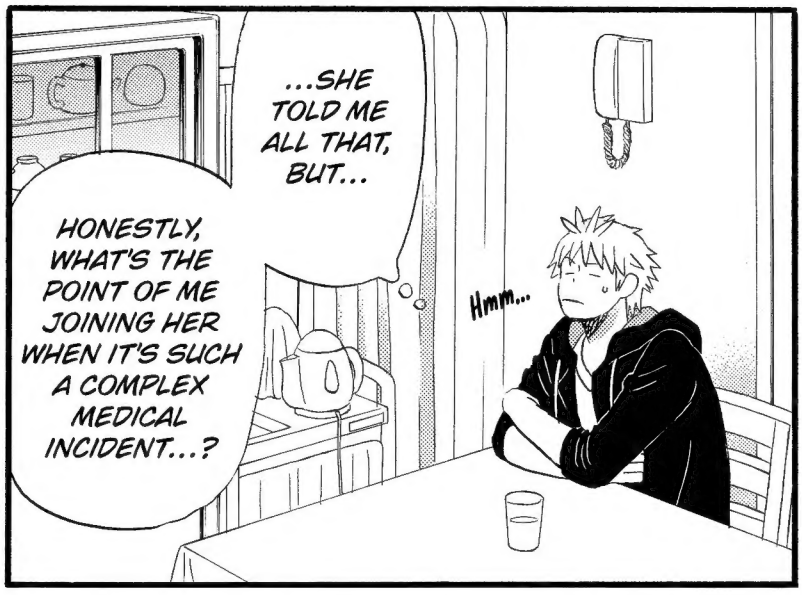

THE DOCTOR ON DUTY'S RESPONSE THAT DAY WAS POOR.
THE INFORMATION I PROVIDED THEM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A STROKE DUE TO ATRIAL FIBRILLATION WAS NOT COMMUNICATED.
THE DOCTOR ASSUMED THERE WAS A BRAIN ANOMALY, SO HE DID AN MRI SCAN.

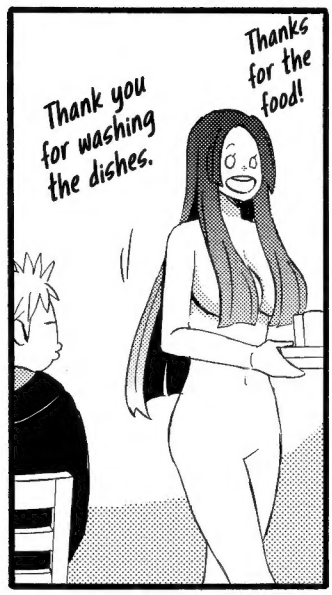
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, TIME WAS UP.
THEIR RESPONSE WAS TOO LATE, AND MY MOTHER WAS PARTIALLY PARALYZED AS A RESULT OF THE STROKE.


AN MRI TAKES TIME.
A QUICK CT SCAN WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT A STROKE HAD OCCURRED.


BUT STILL, THEY SHOULD HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR INABILITY TO TREAT HER AHEAD OF TIME...
SO THE ACCIDENT WAS DOOMED TO HAPPEN FROM THE START.
IN ANY CASE, IT SEEMS THAT THE HOSPITAL HAD NEVER USED THROMBOLYTIC TREATMENT BEFORE...


THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE GIST OF THE STORY. DID YOU GET IT?
M-
MORE OR LESS...
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.


...SHE TOLD ME ALL THAT, BUT...
HONESTLY, WHAT'S THE POINT OF ME JOINING HER WHEN IT'S SUCH A COMPLEX MEDICAL INCIDENT...?
Hmm...


Thank you for washing the dishes.
Thanks for the food!

IT'S THE SAME SONG THAT HER MOTHER WAS SINGING.
SHE'S HUMMING AN UNUSUAL TUNE.
ぴょん
Tush...
Clack Clack
YOU SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY...
...
IS IT BECAUSE I SAID I'D GO WITH HER TO THE MEETING ...?
...
HUH? WHY'RE YOU GRINNING LIKE THAT? IT'S KINDA CREEPY.
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, THEN SHOW IT.
...
NEXT TIME: KIRISHIMA SHIROU (24 YEARS OLD) HAS HIS FIRST MISSION AS HER HUSBAND...!